

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00565 141337Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /081 W

----- 051079

R 141155Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8409

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, XG, FI

SUBJECT: GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF: A) OSLO 962; B) GENEVA 1587

BEGIN SUMMARY. FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (SAK)

WAS PLEASED WITH EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN

GENEVA. ACCORDING TO SAK INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 00565 141337Z

TAPIOLA EAST EUROPEANS SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED TECHNICAL

MATTERS OF CONCERN TO ORDINARY WORKERS AND RECOGNIZED PRESENT LIMITATIONS OF EAST-WEST LABOR DIALOGUE. TAPIOLA SAID THAT IN WHOLE PROCESS OF BRINGING CONFERENCE ABOUT THE EASTERN EUROPEANS HAD CONCEDED MUCH MORE THAN THE WESTERN LABOR CENTERS AND HE ENDORSED SAK CHAIRMAN OIVIO'S SPEECH IN GENEVA CALLING FOR DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE AS LONG AS THEY PROVE USEFUL AND DESIRABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION MARCH 12 WITH EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE SAK INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI TAPIOLA SAID SAK WAS PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE. THE CONFEREES DISCUSSED PRACTICAL MATTERS AND THE MEETING DID NOT TURN INTO THE "POLITICAL JAMBOREE" SOME FEARED.

2. TAPIOLA ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHAT IS THERE TO BE AFRAID OF" IN SUCH MEETINGS. HE SAID ONE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE CONFERENCE RESULTS WERE UNANIMOUS. WITH "CONSENSUS" PROCEDURE PREVAILING ANY SINGLE ORGANIZATION COULD EXERCISE A VETO. HE RECOUNTED A CONVERSATION AFTER THE CONFERENCE WITH A "CONSERVATIVE" DUTCH TRADE UNIONIST WHO TOLD TAPIOLA "IT COULD HAVE GONE WORSE." TAPIOLA RESPONDED THAT THOSE WERE EXACTLY THE WORDS USED BY SOVIET DELEGATE PIMENOV IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION. THE DUTCHMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS "RATHER GOOD." THAT'S WHAT PIMENOV SAID TOO, TAPIOLA RECOUNTED.

3. TAPIOLA EMPHASIZED THAT THE DESIRE TO REMOVE FUTURE MEETINGS FROM THE ILO FRAMEWORK AND TO CREATE A FORM OF PERMANENT EAST-WEST TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION ATTRIBUTED TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES WAS NOT "THWARTED," AS THE ICFTU HAD REPORTED AFTER THE MEETING TO ITS NON-EUROPEAN MEMBERS, IT WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED. TAPIOLA SAID THE WFTU ORGANIZATIONS HELD A CAUCUS BEFORE THE MEETING AND CAME UP WITH POLICY POSITIONS QUITE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE SCANDINAVIANS, BRITAINS, TUC, AND EVEN WEST GERMANY'S DGB. IN REFLECTING ON THE WHOLE PROCESS LEADING UP TO THE CONFERENCE TAPIOLA CONTENTED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 00565 141337Z

THAT THE EAST HAS CONCEDED MUCH MORE THAN THE WEST. THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF THE EASTERN EUROPEANS READINESS TO COMPROMISE WAS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DROP THE IDEA OF A NEW CONFERENCE ON ANOTHER THEME. ACCORDING TO TAPIOLA, THIS DEMONSTRATES THEY ARE NOT JUST INTERESTED IN PROMOTING CONFERENCES FOR THEIR OWN SAKE.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE DEBATE ON THE TIMING OF THE

NEXT MEETING, TAPIOLA SAID THAT THE DGB'S VETTER HAD INSISTED ON QUALIFICATIONS ("IF POSSIBLE, DURING 1976") BECAUSE HE ARGUED IT WAS A MATTER FOR EACH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO DECIDE. TAPIOLA COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SAK FELT THE WESTERN EUROPEANS FREQUENTLY WASTED TOO MUCH ENERGY IN DISCUSSING THE MODALITIES OF EAST-WEST CONTACTS AND THAT THEY SHOULD SIMPLY AGREE TO PURSUE PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EAST FOR AS LONG AS THEY PROVE USEFUL.

5. TAPIOLA GAVE LABATT A COPY OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY SAK CHAIRMAN OIVIO AT GENEVA, WHICH WAS WRITTEN DURING THE CONFERENCE, AND CONCENTRATED MOSTLY ON TECHNICAL MATTERS. OIVIO SAID IT WAS THE SAK'S VIEW THAT THE PROCESS SHOULD NOT STOP AT THIS POINT. A FOLLOWUP CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY. THE DECISION AS TO HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE IT SHOULD BE HELD SHOULD BE MADE SOON -- IN PART BECAUSE OF THE ILO DISCUSSION OF THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT SCHEDULED FOR THE SUMMER OF 1976 OIVIO STATEMENT AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS OF THE GENEVA MEETING ARE BEING SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.

6. COMMENT: TAPIOLA'S ACCOUNT REFLECTS SATISFACTION THAT PROCESS IN WHICH SAK FEELS IT PLAYED A CATALYST ROLE HAS SO FAR PROVED SATISFACTORY TO BOTH CAMPS. TAPIOLA, AND SAK'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP, AGREE WITH OBJECTIVE SET FORTH BY NORWAY'S SANDEGREN (OSLO REFTEL) OF HAVING INTRUSIONS SEEKING AGREEMENT ON BASIC ATTITUDES AND PRACTICAL STEPS IN PURELY TRADE UNION QUESTIONS. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, THEY OFTEN FEEL THE NEED TO MAKE THE IDEOLOGICAL BOW TO THE SAK'S LARGE COMMUNIST MINORITY.

AUSTAD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HELSIN 00565 141337Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, EAST WEST MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, WORKING CONDITIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN00565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750090-0478
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750351/aaaabtii.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OSLO 962, 75 GENEVA 1587
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE
TAGS: ELAB, XG, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006